

[7th March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether his attention has been drawn in this context to the news-item, Enforcing earthquake resistant building norms not viable experts appearing in the Hindustan Times, dated 21st January, 2001; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This Ministry had written to all States and UT's in May 1998 to modify their building bye-laws by incorporating earthquake safety measures as per specifications formulated by Bureau of Indian Standards. After the earthquake in Gujarat, they have been reminded to take urgent action in this regard and send a feed back to this Ministry. In respect of Delhi for which this Ministry is responsible, a public notice has been issued for inviting public objection and opinion on the modifications suggested in the Building Bye-laws. This modification proposes to make it mandatory that the structural design of foundation, masonry, timber, plan concrete etc. would be carried out taking into consideration the Indian Standards for earthquake protection of building and that the certificate of doing so would be signed by the owner and the architect.

(d) Government has not come across any such news item in Hindustan Times dated 21.1.2001 at Delhi.

(e) Question does not arise.

Plan to Curb Growth of Unauthorised Constructions in Delhi

1140. SHRI R.K. ANAND : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any effective plan to curb growth of unauthorised constructions in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have also tried to examine the nexus between colonizers and politicians in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Detection of and action against, unauthorised

construction is a continuous and ongoing process under the relevant provisions of Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957; Delhi Development Act, 1957 and New Delhi Municipal Council, Act, 1994. The Ministry has been issuing instructions, from time to time, drawing the attention of the concerned agencies to the need to take effective action in this regard. This has been reiterated again by issuing comprehensive instructions on 28.8.2000 with the aim of ensuring effective and systematic action against all types of unauthorised/illegal constructions in Delhi.

(c) The Central Government, *vide* Notification dated 30.8.2000, has appointed a Commission of Inquiry, headed by Mr. Justice G.T. Nanavati, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India to look into the coming up of unauthorised colonies and illegal constructions in the NCT of Delhi. The terms of Reference of the Commission, *inter-alia*, include identification and fixation of responsibility of individual or public servants who have caused or aided or abetted or in any way connived at in the setting up of such colonies or their growth in violations of the relevant laws.

Proposal for Supply of Drinking Water in Darjeeling

1141. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from the Government of West Bengal has been received for supply of drinking water in Darjeeling;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government on the proposal, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of West Bengal had submitted a project proposal for improvement of water supply system of Darjeeling Municipality at an estimated cost of Rs. 33.65 crores in March, 1996. This proposal was technically examined by the Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) in this Ministry and the Govt. of West Bengal was requested to resubmit a revised proposal. The State Government was also informed that the proposal is not covered under the Centrally-sponsored Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) meant for towns of less than 20,000 population